

CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A user interface for depiction by a display of a computing system, the user interface for enhancing a computing session by providing seamless continuity when a user logs onto the computing system, the user interface comprising:

a logon page which is displayed to the user prior to logging onto the computing system, the logon page including:

one or more selectable logon controls; and

one or more ~~[[a]]~~ user-identifiable indicators corresponding to the user, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ each displayed user-identifiable indicator is associated with ~~[[a]]~~ its corresponding selectable logon control displayed on the logon page; and

a user interface start page displayed in response to user selection of the selectable logon control via the logon page, the user interface start page displayed to the user after a first transition from the logon page but prior to a second transition to a desktop page, wherein the user interface start page and the desktop page each include the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the user, wherein the user-identifiable indicator is displayed uninterrupted throughout the first transition and throughout the second transition, and wherein the user interface start page further includes:

user-selectable controls from one or more regions of the desktop page which is displayed after the second transition, each of the user selectable controls configured to initiate a display of information associated with the user when selected; and ~~wherein the user interface start page further comprises~~

a start control that is user-selectable to initiate that multiple application programs start together at approximately a same time after the transition to the desktop page and after a single user input; and

a user-configurable on-line selectable control on the user interface start page which permits the user to designate an on-line status before transitioning to the desktop page, wherein the user is permitted via the user-configurable on-line

selectable control to select a status wherein at least one other user is not notified that the user has changed status from off-line to on-line.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface start page further comprises a start control configured to initiate that a group of application programs start together at approximately a same time after the transition to the desktop page, the group of application programs including application programs executing when a previous computing session was discontinued.

4. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface start page further comprises a start control configured to initiate that a group of application programs start together at approximately a same time after the transition to the desktop page, the group of application programs including application programs often selected for use by the user.

5. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface start page further comprises a start control configured to initiate that a group of application programs start together at approximately a same time after the transition to the desktop page, the group of application programs including application programs recently selected for use by the user.

6. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface start page further comprises a time-based display of information corresponding to an environment associated with the user.

7. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface start page further comprises a date-based display of information corresponding to an environment associated with the user.

8. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface start page further comprises a date-based user-selectable control corresponding to an application program associated with the user.

9. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface start page further comprises a logoff control configured for user-selection to logoff the computing system and initiate a transition to a logon page that includes one or more selectable logon controls that each correspond to a different user of the computing system.

10. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface start page further comprises a settings change control configured for user-selection to change display settings of the user interface start page.

11. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface start page further comprises a desktop selection control configured for user-selection to select from one or more desktop pages each corresponding to the user and each having a unique display configuration.

12. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface start page further comprises a desktop selection control configured for user-selection to select from one or more desktop pages each corresponding to the user and each having a unique display configuration of any of the one or more regions of the desktop page.

13. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface start page further comprises a desktop selection control configured for user-selection to select from one or more desktop pages that include at least one of a work environment desktop, a home environment desktop, a weekend activities desktop, and a weekday activities desktop.

14. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user selectable controls of the user interface start page include a list of resources that each correspond to at least one of (i) a resource recently accessed by the user and (ii) a resource designated for user-selection from the user interface start page.

15. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user selectable controls of the user interface start page include a list of resources that each correspond to a resource recently accessed by the user, and wherein a resource is initiated for display when the corresponding user-selectable control is selected and after the transition to the desktop page.

16. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user selectable controls of the user interface start page include a list of resources that each correspond to a resource designated for user-selection from the user interface start page, and wherein a resource is initiated for display when the corresponding user-selectable control is selected and after the transition to the desktop page.

17. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user selectable controls of the user interface start page include a list of documents that each correspond to at least one of (i) a document recently accessed by the user and (ii) a document designated for user-selection from the user interface start page.

18. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user selectable controls of the user interface start page include a list of directory locations that each correspond to at least one of (i) a directory location recently selected for use by the user and (ii) a directory location designated for user-selection from the user interface start page.

19. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user selectable controls of the user interface start page include a list of application programs that each correspond to at least one of (i) an application program recently

selected for use by the user and (ii) an application program designated for user-selection from the user interface start page.

20. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user selectable controls of the user interface start page include a list of application programs that each correspond to an application program recently selected for use by the user, and wherein an application program is initiated when the corresponding user-selectable control is selected and after the transition to the desktop page.

21. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user selectable controls of the user interface start page include a list of application programs that each correspond to an application program designated for user-selection from the user interface start page, and wherein an application program is initiated when the corresponding user-selectable control is selected and after the transition to the desktop page.

22. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user selectable controls of the user interface start page include a list of on line users that each correspond to a particular user selected for display notification when the particular user is on-line.

23. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user selectable controls of the user interface start page include a list of e-mail notifications that each correspond to an e-mail received after a previous computing session was discontinued.

24. (Previously Presented) A user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the user selectable controls of the user interface start page include a list of e-mail notifications that each correspond to an e-mail received after a previous computing session was discontinued, and wherein an e-mail is configured to be displayed when

the corresponding e-mail notification is selected and after the transition to the desktop page.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for providing seamless continuity when a user logs onto a computing system, the method comprising:

displaying, on a display device, a logon page to the user, the logon page including a user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the user, wherein the user-identifiable indicator is associated with a selectable logon control displayed on the logon page, wherein the selectable logon control that is displayed on the logon page is selectable via a user input to the computing system;

displaying a user interface start page in response to user selection of the selectable logon control via the logon page, the user interface start page displayed to the user after a first transition from the logon page but prior to a second transition to a desktop page, wherein the user interface start page and the desktop page each include the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the user, and wherein the user-identifiable indicator is displayed uninterrupted throughout the first transition and throughout the second transition; and

displaying user-selectable controls on the user interface start page that are included in one or more regions of the desktop page which is displayed after the second transition, each of the user selectable controls configured to initiate a display of information associated with the user when selected; and wherein the user interface start page further comprises a start control that is user-selectable to initiate that multiple application programs start together at approximately a same time after the transition to the desktop page and after a single user input, and wherein the user interface start page is further configured to display a user-configurable on-line selectable control on the user interface start page which permits the user to designate an on-line status before transitioning to the desktop page, wherein the user is permitted via the user-configurable on-line selectable control to select a status wherein at least one other user is not notified that the user has changed status from off-line to on-line.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising displaying a start control on the user interface start page, the start control being user-selectable to start a group of application programs together after the transition to the desktop page, the group of application programs including application programs executing when a previous computing session was discontinued.

28. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising displaying a start control on the user interface start page, the start control being user-selectable to start a group of application programs together after the transition to the desktop page, the group of application programs including application programs often selected for use by the user.

29. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising displaying a start control on the user interface start page, the start control being user-selectable to start a group of application programs together after the transition to the desktop page, the group of application programs including application programs recently selected for use by the user.

30. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising displaying time-based information on the user interface start page, the time-based information corresponding to an environment associated with the user.

31. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising displaying date-based information on the user interface start page, the date-based information corresponding to an environment associated with the user.

32. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising displaying a date-based user-selectable control on the user interface start page, the date-based user-selectable control corresponding to an application program associated with the user.

33. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising displaying a logoff control on the user interface start page, the logoff control being user selectable to logoff the computing system and initiate a transition to a logon page that includes one or more selectable logon controls that each correspond to a different user of the computing system.

34. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising displaying a settings change control on the user interface start page, the settings change control being user-selectable to change display settings of the user interface start page.

35. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising displaying a desktop selection control on the user interface start page, the desktop selection control being user-selectable to select from one or more desktop pages each corresponding to the user and each having a unique display configuration.

36. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising displaying a desktop selection control on the user interface start page, the desktop selection control being user-selectable to select from one or more desktop pages each corresponding to the user and each having a unique display configuration of any of the one or more regions of the desktop page.

37. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising displaying a desktop selection control on the user interface start page, the desktop selection control being user-selectable to select from one or more desktop pages that include at least one of a work environment desktop, a home environment desktop, a weekend activities desktop, and a weekday activities desktop.

38. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein displaying the user selectable controls includes displaying a list of resources that each correspond to a resource recently accessed by the user.

39. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein displaying the user selectable controls includes displaying a list of resources that each correspond to a resource designated for user-selection from the user interface start page.

40. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein displaying the user selectable controls includes displaying a list of documents that each correspond to a document recently accessed by the user.

41. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein displaying the user selectable controls includes displaying a list of documents that each correspond to a document designated for user-selection from the user interface start page.

42. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein displaying the user selectable controls includes displaying a list of directory locations that each correspond to a directory location recently selected for use by the user.

43. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein displaying the user selectable controls includes displaying a list of directory locations that each correspond to a directory location designated for user-selection from the user interface start page.

44. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein displaying the user selectable controls includes displaying a list of application programs that each correspond to an application program recently selected for use by the user.

45. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein displaying the user selectable controls includes displaying a list of application programs that each

correspond to an application program designated for user-selection from the user interface start page.

46. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein displaying the user selectable controls includes displaying a list of on-line users that each correspond to a particular user selected for display notification when the particular user is on-line.

47. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein displaying the user selectable controls includes displaying a list of e-mail notifications that each correspond to an e-mail received after a previous computing session was discontinued.

48. (Original) One or more computer readable media comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing device to perform the method of claim 25.

49. (Currently Amended) One or more computer readable media comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing device to:

display a logon page to the user, the logon page including a user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the user, wherein the user-identifiable indicator is associated with a selectable logon control displayed on the logon page, wherein the selectable logon control that is displayed on the logon page is selectable via a user input to the computing system with a mouse click input, and wherein the user-identifiable indicator is a scalable image displayed uninterrupted throughout the transition as a continually evolving display of the user identifiable indicator; and

display a user interface start page in response to user selection of the selectable logon control via the logon page, the user interface start page displayed to the user after a first transition from the logon page but prior to a second transition to a desktop page, wherein the user interface start page and the desktop page each include the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the user, wherein the user identifiable indicator appears in a scale distinct from the scale in which it appears on the logon page, and

wherein the user-identifiable indicator is displayed uninterrupted throughout the first transition and throughout the second transition; [[and]]

display user-selectable controls on the user interface start page that are included in one or more regions of the desktop page which is displayed after the second transition, each of the user selectable controls configured to initiate a display of information associated with the user when selected; and wherein the user interface start page further comprises a start control that is user-selectable to initiate that multiple application programs start together at approximately a same time after the transition to the desktop page and after a single user input; and

display a user-configurable on-line selectable control on the user interface start page which permits the user to designate an on-line status before transitioning to the desktop page, wherein the user is permitted via the user-configurable on-line selectable control to select a status wherein at least one other user is not notified that the user has changed status from off-line to on-line.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display a start control on the user interface start page, the start control being user-selectable to start a group of application programs together at approximately a same time, the group of application programs including application programs executing when a previous computing session was discontinued.

52. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display a start control on the user interface start page, the start control being user-selectable to start a group of application programs together at approximately a same time, the group of application programs including application programs often selected for use by the user.

53. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display a start control on the user interface start page, the start control being user-selectable to start a group of application programs together at approximately a same time, the group of application programs including application programs recently selected for use by the user.

54. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display time-based information on the user interface start page, the time-based information corresponding to an environment associated with the user.

55. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display date-based information on the user interface start page, the date-based information corresponding to an environment associated with the user.

56. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display a date-based user-selectable control on the user interface start page, the date-based user-selectable control corresponding to an application program associated with the user.

57. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display a logoff control on the user interface start page, the logoff control being user-selectable to logoff the computing system and initiate a transition to a logon page that includes one or more selectable logon controls that each correspond to a different user of the computing system.

58. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display a settings change control on the user interface start page, the settings change control being user-selectable to change display settings of the user interface start page.

59. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display a desktop selection control on the user interface start page, the desktop selection control being user-selectable to select from one or more desktop pages each corresponding to the user and each having a unique display configuration.

60. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display the user-selectable controls to include a list of resources that are each associated with the user.

61. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display the user-selectable controls to include a list of documents that are each associated with the user.

62. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display the user-selectable controls to include a list of directory locations that are each associated with the user.

63. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display the user-selectable controls to include a list of application programs that are each associated with the user.

64. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display the user-selectable controls to include a list of on line users that each correspond to a particular user selected for display notification when the particular user is on-line.

65. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 49, further comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct the computing device to display the user-selectable controls to include a list of e mail notifications that each correspond to an e-mail received after a previous computing session was discontinued.